

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 06463 291806Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 6463

EXDIS

EYES ONLY FOR ASST SECRETARY MAYNES
E.9. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO
SUBJECT: ILO

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION ONLY, I MET WITH IRVING BROWN
THURSDAY FOR OVER AN HOUR DURING WHICH THE FOLLOWING
POINTS EMERGED:

A. HE REAFFIRMED THAT THE FAILURE TO ACCEPT THE
REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE APPLICATION OF CONVENTIONS
WAS THE DECISIVE EVENT THAT TRIGGERED THE AFL-CIO
DETERMINATION TO WITHDRAW.

B. IN A GENERAL WAY, I SOLICITED HIS OPINION AS
TO THE POSSIBILITIES OF SUSPENDING THE US WITHDRAWAL
NOTICE AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO WITHDRAWING IT OR ALLOWING
IT TO BE SELF-EXECUTING, ALTHOUGH I DID NOT OUTLINE MY
PROPOSAL CONTAINED IN GENEVA'S 3060. IT SEEMED TO BE
A NEW POSSIBILITY FOR BROWN, ALTHOUGH HE INDICATED THAT
BLANCHARD HAD MADE AN OBLIQUE REFERENCE TO THE POSSIBILITY
IN A LUNCHEON WITH HIM ON TUESDYY IN PARIS. HE
STRESSED THAT, WHATEVER HIS OPINION, MEANY AND
KIRKLAND WOULD HAVE TO BE SOLD ON THE IDEA.

C. BROWN FEELS STRONGLY THAT A DECISION BE MADE
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PRIMARILY BECAUSE LABOR WAS BEING
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PUT IN THE UNACCEPTABLE POSITION OF BEIING DESCRIBED AS
REACTIONARY IN ITS DETERMINATION TO WITHDRAW AS OPPOSED
TO PRESIDENT CARTER, WHO WAS BEING PICTURED AS ANXIOUS
TO FIND A WAY TO KEEP THE UNITED STATES AS AN ACTIVE
ILO PARTICIPANT.

D. I ASKED WHAT COULD BE DONE THAT WOULD CAUSE
MEANY AND KIRKLAND TO OPEN THEIR MINDS TO THE POSSI-

BILITIES OF EXTENDING OUR LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, HE THOUGHT THAT A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY CERTAIN COUNTRIES (ESPECIALLY EGYPT) SAYING THEY WERE WRONG IN REJECTING THE CONFERENCE REPORT MIGHT BE HELPFUL. I SUGGESTED THAT SUCH A STATEMENT OF ADMISSION OF ERROR BY ANY COUNTRY WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE AND HE AGREED. I THEN ASKED WHETHER A STATEMENT FROM THE EGYPTIANS AFFIRMING THAT THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS REPORT WAS AT THE HEART OF ILO'S WORK AND THAT EGYPT WOULD WORK TO ACHIEVE SUCH ACCEPTANCE - WHETHER SUCH A STATEMENT WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE. HE THOUGHT IT CERTAINLY WOULD HELP.

2. COMMENT: YOU WILL HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED GENEVA'S 6443, WHICH PROPOSES A COORDINATED DIPLOMATIC EFFORT FOLLOWING UP ON YOUR CAIRO TRIP. I URGE, HOWEVER, THAT THIS BE EXTENDED TO OTHER KEY G-77 CAPITALS AS WELL. CLEARLY ANY PROGRESS THAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE BETWEEN NOW AND THE TIME THAT THE PRESIDENT MAKES HIS DECISION WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR HIM POLITICALLY TO EXTEND THE LETTER OF WITHDRAWAL. BROWN'S REMARKS QUOTED IN ITEM D ABOVE CONFIRMS THAT EVEN THE AFL-CIO COULD NOT IGNORE EVIDENCE OF FLEXIBILITY THAT A DIPLOMATIC EFFORT MIGHT ACHIEVE. ROGER AND I HAVE A NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS THIS COMING WEEK WITH G-77 AMBASSADORS AND WE INTEND TO CONFIDENTIAL

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PROBE THEIR THINKING ON THE STRUCTURE ISSUE WHICH IS CLEARLY THE KEY TO UNLOCKING THIS PROBLEM IF IT IS GOING TO BE UNLOCKED. ULTIMATELY, HOWEVER, IT WILL BE THE CAPITALS THAT WILL MAKE DECISIONS AND IT SEEMS TO ME, THEREFORE, THAT TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE IN GETTING THE G-77 TO THINK "IMAGINATIVELY" AS WELL AS OURSELVES, IF WE ARE TO SUCCEED.
VANDEN HEUVEL

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